

COUNCIL ON MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS  
MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 29, 2006

This meeting was held at the Orange County Sheriff's Department Katella Training Facility.

**In Attendance:**

Council Members

James E. Tilton, Chairperson  
Wendy Lindley, Judge, Orange County Superior Court  
Jo Robinson, M.F.T., Assistant Director, San Francisco Jail Psychiatric Services  
Duane E. McWaine, M.D., Medical Director, DHCMHC, Los Angeles  
David Meyer, J.D., USC Institute of Psychiatry, Law, and Behavioral Science  
Charlie Walters, Assistant Sheriff, Orange County Sheriff's Department

Support Staff

Bruce Slavin, General Counsel, Office of the Secretary, CDCR  
Allan Lammers, Executive Officer (A)  
Melody Gutierrez, Correctional Programs, Orange County Sheriff's Department

Interested Parties

Doug McKeever, Project Director, Mental Health Programs,  
Division of Correctional Health Care Services, CDCR  
Darc Keller, Assistant Secretary, Office of Health Care Policy, CDCR  
Kit Wall, Local Government Relations, Eli Lilly & Company  
Sheryl Curl, Administrative Manager, Correctional Mental Health  
Orange County Health Care Agency  
Elizabeth Stoltz, (\_\_\_\_\_)  
James Rostron, (\_\_\_\_\_)

**Absent:**

Council Member James Sweeny  
Council Member Stephen W. Mayberg  
Council Member Dave Lehman

A quorum was present. Orange County Sheriff Mike Corona welcomed those attending the meeting. James E. Tilton, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

OPENING COMMENTS

Mr. Tilton welcomed Assistant Sheriff Charles Walters as the newest member of the Council of Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO). Mr. Tilton discussed the role of COMIO as it pertained to developing better community partnerships that would benefit the population of mentally ill offenders. Mr. Tilton's main goal for the Council is to provide a better transition for inmates coming from jail/prison by placing them in a facility within the community and establishing a network of providers to offer services to them. Some of the needs discussed in order for this goal to be accomplished are:

- Various sites (program facilities) in the community to keep people connected to services
- More services from Parole agencies
- More Law Enforcement

### MEETING DATES

Motion was made and seconded to change the meeting dates from Wednesdays to Thursdays. The motion was passed.

### MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2006 MEETING

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 21 meeting. The motion was passed.

### FUTURE DIRECTION FOR COMIO

The Council discussed their goals and priorities for 2007. These goals are as follows:

- Know the minimum standards for assessing mental incompetence in the justice system.
- Come up with an ideal way to get legislative proposals to the legislature.  
Issues discussed included:
  - Will legislation support mental health courts?
  - The money granted under Prop 63 is not being allocated to the population of mentally ill offenders.Tilton suggested that all legislative issues arising from the Council should be sent to Al Lammers and then directed to the legislature. A suggestion was made to create a partnership that would include a council member, a legislative representative from Northern California and a legislative representative from Southern California.
- Communicate with other programs in the state and get an idea of the “best practices” used.
- Produce a web site that includes basic information on programs, discussion boards, links to other agencies, etc..
- Develop a consistent set of performance measurements and outcome measurements that can be used on the mentally ill offender population.  
Suggestions were made that include the following:
  - Create a collaborative effort that would include the UC system.
  - Write up a draft and get feedback.
  - Propose completed measurement tool to all organizations and agencies for their use and get their feedback.

### MENTAL HEALTH COURT CONCERNS

Judge Lindley expressed her concerns about what a mental health court would look like and issued a proposal (draft) that may be helpful in addressing those concerns.

### MENTAL HEALTH INSTRUCTION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Presentations were given by Denny Lucero, Ma, MFT and Sheryl Curl, Ma, MFT, RN on the role that police officers should take when approaching or working with a mentally ill offender.

Denny Lucero covered some specific goals used when training Law Enforcement officers. These goals include:

- Raising Awareness
- Instilling the humanistic side of working with the mentally ill population

- Developing empathy skills
- Becoming aware of community resources

Sheryl Curl discussed some of the issues relating to the mentally ill population while in custody. Sheryl stated that specifically, at the Orange County Jail, there are approximately 1,568 open mentally ill cases (18 – 19% of the jail population). Sheryl also discussed a new LPS unit that has been erected in the Orange County Jails which, to date, has 7 clients so far. These clients receive probable cause hearings on site as well as 4 hours of group settings per day.

#### TOUR OF TRAINING FACILITY

A brief tour was given of the tactical training range where a less-lethal / non-lethal weapons demonstration was given. Also, a live demonstration was given involving an officer and a mentally disordered individual.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on January 18, 2007, at the headquarters building of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in Sacramento.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

#### **MINUTES APPROVED BY:**

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JAMES E. TILTON, CHAIRPERSON

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ALLAN LAMMERS, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

#### **MINUTES RECORDED/TRANSCRIBED BY:**

MELODY GUTIERREZ